CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009 TRIBAL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE Highlights of June 24, 2008, Meeting in Sacramento

The eighth meeting of the Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) was held in Sacramento on June 24, 2008. The meeting's objectives were (1) to approve the final draft of the Tribal Communication Plan, and (2) to discuss the role of the TCC in planning for the 2009 Tribal Water Summit.

Adoption of the Tribal Communication Plan

The group made a few final revisions to the Communication Plan. One participant requested that some additional language be drafted and approved by the group. Once this is complete, the final draft document will be publicly available. The TCC will retain the ability to edit and revise this document at any time in the future. It is not a permanently finished document, but rather a final draft document that the TCC will allow to be shared with interested parties. Among others, it will be shared with the California Water Plan's State Agency Steering Committee. It is also informing the draft policy recommendations for Update 2009, and the work of the Department of Water Resources' Communication Improvement Team.

Implementing the Communication Plan, including the 2009 Tribal Water Summit

The group then walked through the list of implementation actions, and made several revisions.

The group also began discussing the Tribal Water Summit. Several important components were noted, including:

- (1) the development of protocols for inviting people and other processes
- (2) regional outreach, including a save-the-date and fact sheet
- (3) the date of the summit, tentatively agreed upon as late spring or summer 2009
- (4) the duration of the summit, tentatively agreed upon as two days
- (5) the location of the summit, tentatively agreed upon as Sacramento, which has a large media market that can help advertise and promote the summit
- (6) the need to verify the credentials of people invited, and have different invitations for speakers, participants, observers, and members of the press
- (7) the need to ensure that the highest levels of government not only commit to attending, but actually attend when the time comes, and
- (8) the possibility of having Tribal sponsors, which the group felt would be positive and not unduly influence the event.

The group agreed that the final draft of the communication plan signaled the end of the first phase of the TCC, but that the TCC would continue to exist until the end of Update 2009. For the second phase that they would send out a new invitation to interested parties, along with information about what was involved in planning the summit and a timeline, and invite them to participate.